

Trends of 2015 IN AFTERSCHOOL

What's on the horizon for Afterschool programs?
Here's a look at a few things that will continue
to drive afterschool forward in 2015!



High quality after school programs have always focused on building positive relationships between adults and youth. **Personalized learning** will take this to a whole new level in the coming year. We will see a significant increase in youth voice and choice as afterschool professionals use their relationships with youth, taking into consideration each student's potential, abilities, and intellectual and social competencies and enlist youth as active co-designers of the learning experience to extend positive student experiences and outcomes in 2015.



The **STEM** afterschool movement has made a lot of progress and 2015 will bring further elevation of this work. We will continue as key players in the **STEM ecosystems**. We will also move beyond science to take advantage of additional opportunities that develop youth not just as users of technology, but **creators of technology**, through additional engaging **computer science** resources that develop skills like coding. In addition, engineering will be on the upswing as we continue to recognize its value in developing specific technical skills and the additional possibility of using the understanding of the engineering design process as a means to develop **creativity** and **grit**.

Recent national and global events indicate that addressing **cultural competence** through a focus on **diversity awareness** is more important than ever before. In 2015 after school programs will take an even more active role in fostering cultural competence in youth, developing young people that have knowledge and comfort with people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, the skills to be able to work effectively across cultures in a respectful way, and a commitment to social responsibility that advances **social justice** within our communities.



Public policy and other grassroots advocacy efforts will continue to position afterschool as an integral part of the **overall learning ecosystem**. With over 5,000 hours of out-of-school time per year, 2015 will see afterschool playing a bigger role than ever in **engaging families, schools, and communities** as part of their contribution to whole-child development and building healthy, thriving communities.

Quality is important in early childhood, K-12, and in out-of-school time. It's not either/or, it's ALL. In 2015 leaders at all levels will begin talking about the **continuum of quality**, valuing each other's contributions, and working together to ensure well-developed and well-educated children and youth at all levels regardless of program type or funding stream.

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